

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-08 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 USIA-15 SWF-02

PC-10 DRC-01 /094 W

----- 104799

R 122040Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1731

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

USCINCSO

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ALSO FOR AID WASHINGTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EC

SUBJ: DAMAGE AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN FLOOD DAMAGED AMAZON REGION

REF: QUITO 4573, 4521, 4519, 4508

1. SUMMARY. WATERS IN ORIENTE RECEDING. GOE OFFICE CIVIL DEFENSE (OCD) APPEARS TAKING HOLD OF SITUATION. GOE REQUEST FOR USE USAF C-130 MADE AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWN. MISSION OFFICERS OVERFLEW PART OF DISASTER AREA JULY 11. AMBASSADOR HAS NO CURRENT PLANS DECLARE DISASTER OR USE DISASTER FUNDS OTHER THAN DIVERSION OF SOME IN-COUNTRY TITLE II FOODSTUFFS. END SUMMARY.

2. SITUATION IN FLOOD-DAMAGED AMAZONIAN PROVINCES STILL FAR FROM CLEARLY DEFINED IN VIEW EXTENSIVE AREA INVOLVED AND COMPLETE HALT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT INTO AFFECTED AREAS DUE LAND SLIDES AND DESTROYED BRIDGES.

3. NEW GOE OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE CALLED MEETING TWO DAYS RUNNING (JULY 10-11) TO INVOLVE AND COORDINATE INTER-

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NATIONAL AND NATIONAL AGENCIES. INFO PRESENTED FIRST MEETING

SKETCHY AND DISORGANIZED, BUT ON JULY 11, OCD PUBLISHED REPORT OF AN ESTIMATED 15,000 PERSONS AT 11 NAMED LOCATIONS IN NORTH, 1000 AT 5 LOCATIONS IN CENTRAL AND 2000 AT 2 LOCATIONS IN SOUTH AMAZON REGION. THESE 18,000 SAID TO BE EITHER CUT OFF FROM SUPPLIES OR HAVING SUFFERED DAMAGE TO HOME, CROPS, LIVESTOCK. REPORTED DEATHS 6-8 PERSONS, ALL IN SOUTHERN AMAZON; NONE NOW REPORTED MISSING. OCD ALSO ADVISED INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES THAT IMMEDIATE, EXTERNAL FOOD AID UNNECESSARY BECAUSE ENPROVIT, A GOE FOOD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, WAS MEETING NEED FROM LIMITED GOE STOCKS (37,000 LBS) OF RICE, LENTILS, NOODLES, SUGAR AND COFFEE. THESE SUPPLIES BEING AIRLIFTED BY TWO ECUADOREAN "AIR BRIDGES", QUITO TO LAGO AGRIO AND CUENCA TO MACAS. HOWEVER, OCD REQUESTED "SECOND PHASE" INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN FOOD, CLOTHING, TENTS, ROOFING, TOOLS, SEEDS, ETC. TO START WITHIN 2-3 DAYS WHEN MORE COMPLETE DATA AVAILABLE ON VICTIMS AND HARD-HIT, ISOLATED LOCATIONS.

4. FOR INITIAL PHASE, GEN. JOSE MONTESINOS, SECRETARY GENERAL, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, INFORMALLY REQUESTED THEN WITHDREW REQUEST FOR C-130 AIRCRAFT FROM U.S. TO TRANSPORT 150-200,000 LBS. OF FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO LAGO AGRIO, FROM WHENCE GOE CHOPPERS WOULD DISTRIBUTE TO ISOLATED AND DISPERSED POPULATION. WITHDRAWAL OF REQUEST ATTRIBUTED TO RAPID PROGRESS IN CLEARING QUITO-LAGO AGRIO AND CUENCA MACAS ROADS.

5. ONE OF THE TWO AREAS OF HIGHEST CONCERN LIES BETWEEN LATITUDE ZERO DEGREES THIRTY MINUTES NORTH AND SOUTH (0 30' N TO 0 30' S) AND LONGITUDE SEVENTY FIVE DEGREES THIRTY MINUTES TO SEVENTY SIX DEGREES THIRTY MINUTES WEST (75 30' W TO 76 30' W). OVERFLIGHT ABOVE AREAS NOT POSSIBLE JULY 11 DUE CLOUD CONDITIONS, BUT DIRECTOR USAID, NAVAL ATTACHE AND CARE PERSONNEL MADE OVERFLIGHT ADJACENT AREA TO WEST. ALTHOUGH NO EVIDENCE OF WASHED OUT TOWNS, AT LEAST ONE IMPORTANT ROAD BRIDGE WHICH HELD PETROLEUM PIPELINE CARRIED AWAY. WATER LEVEL THIS AREA HAD DROPPED TO ALMOST NORMAL AND AT LEAST ONE ROAD BRIDGE (OVER NAPO RIVER AT COCA) REMAINED WITHOUT DAMAGE. STREWN TREES, LOGS AND DEBRIS ALONG RIO AGUARICO AND RIO COCA RIVERS INDICATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT REPORTS THAT WATER HAD BEEN FIFTEEN FEET ABOVE NORMAL DURING PAST WEEK PROBABLY ACCURATE. HOWEVER, RADIO REPORT TO CARE FROM PRIEST AT LIMON IN SOUTH ORIENTE INDICATES AT LEAST TWO SMALL TOWNS COMPLETELY DESTROYED AND THIRD TOTALLY ISOLATED AND WITHOUT SUPPLIES OF FOOD OR FUEL. AND REPORTS FROM COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT INDICATE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO AT LEAST FIVE TOWNS ALONG PUTUMAYO RIVER BORDER WITH ECUADOR, GOE REPORT GIVES PUTUMAYO RIVER AREA FIRST PRIORITY, COCA

RIVER SECOND AS HIGH DAMAGE AREAS.

6. USAID REMAINING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH GOE, CARE, CRS AND WFP TO HELP ORGANIZE APPROPRIATE TITLE II FEEDING PROGRAMS FOR GOE'S "SECOND PHASE" UNDER PROVISIONS M.O. 1572.2, IIIC2 AND V-B IF NEED ADEQUATELY DOCUMENTED NEXT 2-3 DAYS. AT THIS TIME, DO NOT EXPECT TO EXCEED USE OF 30,000 LBS. WSB (CRS) AND PERHAPS 50,000 LBS. ICSM (CARE), USING IN-COUNTRY TITLE II STOCKS. INVOLVES FAMILY RATION AT APPROXIMATELY .28 LBS/PERSON/DAY, OR 50 LBS. PER FAMILY OF SIX FOR MAXIMUM 30 DAYS. WFP EARMARKING 9 TONS FOOD FOR COORDINATED USE WITH VOLAG PROGRAMS.

7. GOE HAS NOT DECLARED NATIONAL EMERGENCY, BECAUSE, ACCORDING OCD OFFICIAL, THIS IMPLIES MILITARY SITUATION. AMBASSADOR AND MISSION DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE CONTINUING TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS TO SEE HOW GOE ABLE TO DEAL WITH SITUATION, AND DO NOT AT MOMENT PROPOSE TO TAKE ANY FORMAL DISASTER RELIEF ACTION, OTHER THAN PROBABLE USE OF TITLE II IN-COUNTRY FOODSTOCKS.

8. WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT AND AID INFORMED.
BREWSTER

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